

Zack Erhard, Columbia University Player, Deserts Climbers and Sneaks Home

FRENCH LEAVE IS TAKEN BY ERHARD

Columbia University Rookie Gets Homesick and Leaves Climbers' Camp Without Notifying Manager Griffith—Well-chance Continues to Improve.

By "SENATOR."

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va., March 8.—Disgraced with his physical condition, a missing nail from his right foot making it impossible for him to do his baseball shoes and suffering from a complicated attack of nostalgia, which in plain English is nothing more than homesickness, Zack Erhard, the Columbia University lad, who was trying for a place in the Climbers' infield, slipped away yesterday afternoon while the players were practicing, and by this time is safe in his home in Harlem. Less than a week at a big league training camp proved more than enough for him.

Erhard's absence was not discovered till this morning, when he failed to take his place at the breakfast table, some comment was heard from his mates, and before the chatter ceased it was learned that he had not slept in the mess hall, as the rookies' quarters are termed. Search showed that his suit case had disappeared.

The Columbia University player is a mere youth, and seemed wholly outclassed by such lads as Joe Gedeon, Red Williams, and Bill Morley for a place with the Climbers. He went South with the New York Yankees last spring, but was let go when the second round, of which he was a member, reached the metropolis. As a school boy hitter he was a phenom, winning a cup in New York with a batting average of .900.

Harry Welch, who much improved in health, was ordered to take things easy, and will not appear in uniform until Monday. His cold has well-nigh disappeared and warm weather for a day or so will put him in shape again.

Too Cold To Work.

Yesterday the entire squad took its double dose of practice in a bitter, biting blast from the snow-capped hills

to the north. Indeed, the morning work-out had to be done in the sheltered tennis courts, where the players engaged in by-law, a muscle-breaking test, and wound up with a long run. Manager Griffith was in personal charge of the work-out and kept it moving fast.

In the afternoon the squad appeared at the windy wastes of Lambeth Field. The stiff gale kept everybody shivering, even under their heavy sweaters, but the practice was fast and furious from first to last, winding up with one long gallop around the place.

These pitchers in the best of condition were used to pitch in the batters, and Joe Boelling, Buck Barton, Charlie Sullivan, Victor Bickers, and Joe Engel each got their first ones moving against the war clubs of the others.

Mevin Gallia, the Texas youth, did not engage in much more than a warming-up and some shagging practice, as it was his first day on the scene.

Throw To Bases.

Joe Engel and Cashon spent almost an hour in the tennis courts learning how to throw to bases and practice. False starts to throw. Manager Griffith himself superintended this work, giving them the benefit of his experience along these lines. In his day he used to hold runners very close to the cushions, and he means to teach his young twirlers all his old tricks. When Engel and Cashon finished their practice the "Old Fox" said he was satisfied with their improvement along these lines. However, he will keep them at it until they have thoroughly mastered it.

Elliott Dent is now a member of the first squad, and will be used frequently while here. Johnson, Groom and Hughes being worked out slowly, in order to be ready when the season opens. Dent looks to be the best of all the new pitchers with the Climbers, and Manager Griffith will give him enough work to bring out all his skill.

The Climbers is waiting for the real warm weather.

Zack Erhard failed to get in his daily practice yesterday, Mike Martin having removed the nail from the big toe of his right foot. He couldn't put on his shoes.

Walter Johnson has commenced lobbing the ball to Williams. He will not use any speed for a week yet, though.

Al Sheer has good form with the willow, and, indeed, is one of the hardest hitters on the team.

Acosta, Rebel Williams, and Joe Gedeon are all under twenty years of age. Ernie Schaefer is over seventy.

"Zeb" Milan simply refuses to listen to any of Clark Griffith's alleged exploits on the Montana hunting fields.

Tommy Hughes, Bob Groom, Chick Gandil, and Eddie Foster are letting their beards grow from Sunday to Sunday, while John Henry is shaving.

John Henry says his throwing arm is in shape right now, and he'd like nothing better than to hurl a couple to the midway station.

Gallia didn't say anything when informed that he made the thirteenth pitcher in camp, but he made a face that said far more than words.

One of the delights of the camp is little Baldomero Acosta. The youngster is already immensely popular with everybody.

Henry is wearing a brace on his knee, but to look at him one would never suspect that there was anything the matter with him.

Frank Laporte and Mrs. Laporte are spending their evenings in Charlottesville's moving picture theater, and vote it great sport.

Joe Gedeon moves around second base as if it belonged to him, while he sends out many hard drives with his wagon tongue. The youngster looks pretty classy.

Yes, here's the way to say it—Haseent, not Jacinto, though it's spelled that way. Calvo is generally called by his last name on account of the pronunciation of his given name.

George McBride refuses to take any chances thus far. The dandy captain of

Cold Waves and Winter Can't Harm the Little Baseball Plant



Senatorial Snapshots From the Camp

By "SENATOR."

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va., March 8.—Warm weather is needed more just now than anything else to clear up the camp of limping athletes.

Eddie Foster says it hurts him more to laugh than to do anything else, his stomach muscles are so sore from throwing.

Jack Ryan doesn't like to catch Tommy Hughes much, because the aged and crafty veteran likes to bounce the ball off Jack's shin.

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DAVIDSON ELECTED TO LEAD GOLFERS

Middle Atlantic Association Selects Columbia Man to Head Organization This Year.

John C. Davidson, one of the most prominent golfers in Washington, and Dr. J. W. Brown, begin their duties in the Middle Atlantic Golf Association today following their selection at the annual meeting at the New Willard last night.

Davidson succeeds Morven Thompson, the Chevy Chase man, as president of the body, while Dr. Brown is elected secretary. W. W. Atkinson, of Richmond, and Yates Penniman, of Baltimore, are represented in the association.

The date of the annual championship tournament is selected as May 22, 23, and 24, and will be played at the Columbia Country Club Golf course. The committee should receive the Conkin system of handicapping.

George Stovall is Hard Taskmaster

WACO, Tex., March 8.—George Stovall has started out to be a harder taskmaster than his predecessors, Jim McAlister, Jack O'Connor, and Bob Wallace. After being made manager of the Browns in June last season, he earned the reputation of being "one of the players."

He wants to retain that position among his charges, but at the same time he will command respect and the best efforts from the Browns.

"Work hard and hustle," is the motto printed at the bottom of the list of rules that was handed to each player at a meeting of those in camp here tonight.

Stovall is not intended to rub elbows with the players, but to be a taskmaster, and he has had his breakfast.

The "old" hasn't been clamped on crap shooting. He does not mind the men playing poker, but he has placed a 25-cent limit on the contests. A rule that is aimed at a number of "bushers" who come up annually and whose dress often offends the residents of first-class hotels, is the one which requires the wearing of white collars and boiled shirts in the lobbies and cafes of the hostilities.

Is Jackson Trying To Emulate Cobb?

Is Joe Jackson emulating the example of Ty Cobb and Cobb's famous "I'm not a quitter" speech? Cleveland fans are asking themselves this question.

Cobb has made it a practice for several seasons past to be late in reporting for spring practice and it is just possible that General Jackson does not intend to allow the Georgia Peach to have the spotlight all to himself in this respect. Jackson was due to arrive at Pensacola Sunday night.

He has not reported as yet, but the chances are he will drift in there within a day or two, as he is particularly anxious to get a glimpse of the new Jackson model of bat which has an excellent likeness of himself and his signature thereon. A half dozen of these bats were shipped to Joe by a Louisville concern.

One-Minute Climber Interviews

By "SENATOR."

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va., March 8.—"I started as a pitcher," says Joe Connolly, the outfielder drafted by Manager Griffith from the Montreal International League team, "but I've played the outfield for the last two seasons."

In 1909 I was a pitcher with the Little Rock Club, and the next year with Zanesville, Ohio. In 1911 I started with Zanesville as an outfielder, going from there to Terre Haute, Ind. The Chicago Cubs bought me and sent me to Montreal, where I played last year. I played center field for Terre Haute because of my hitting. I could always hit the ball, and a hitter is wasted when he is a pitcher.

"The best hitting I did last year, of course, was making two home runs in a single game. That luck doesn't come to everybody nor does it come often. I finished the season with an average at the bat of .316, which isn't so bad for the International League. I hope to make good with Manager Griffith, and am willing to do all that is told me, for I realize that I don't know everything about this game."

Following Joe Wood, the Sox have Hugh Bedient and Buck O'Brien, dazzling young twirling artists. This trio should eclipse Mack's three moundmen, Plank, Bender, and Combs, because they are in the midst of their prime.

We place the Browns at the bottom, because we think the Browns will come in at that place. Here's hoping they don't.

However, scanning the list of other clubs, and what other managers and magnates have said, it is a little surprising that the Browns are going to be a great improvement ball club. That is a cinch. And don't be surprised if they put up a 40 average for the season. But the Browns must back the Yankees, the team they beat out, and when considering that the Yankees had more tough luck than all the other teams in the race, they should be better than they are.

Watch Yanks With Chance.

Then the Yanks have Frank Chance, Al Bridle, Cree, Jake Walter, Russ Ford, and a few more will be fit for duty. This is one club that is sure to climb in 1913.

Chance has the generalship, and his lone weak spot is his infield. If the P. L. can play first base and Chase can play second, this falling will be remedied, because there are several promising youngsters for the other two spots.

Cleveland ought to get the fourth place, with the Tigers fifth, Yanks sixth, and White Sox seventh.

The White Sox were lucky last year. They got off in front, playing very well, but they were not in the West to get their good start that kept them from finishing down toward the tail end.

Really, there is little in the West to stop either the Red Sox, Athletics, and Nationals. That is, this is the March forecast.

Predicting baseball is uncertain. The Browns may win the pennant and Boston may be last. But we have come out with our forecast and we will stand on it. We may be wrong.

The pennant looks to be safe for the Red Sox, though.

Griffith's Players Due for Third Position Berth, Says St. Louis Sporting Writer, in Doping Out the Race for American League Flag.

With every major league ball club down in the South preparing for the 1913 season, naturally the fans want to know what is what, who is going to be the pennant winners, or who ought to be the next champion.

In this article, which is the first of a series analyzing the conditions of the National and American Leagues, as well as giving the inside dope of the sixteen clubs, we will give our forecast on the American League pennant race.

And here comes the rub. Down at the bottom we place the Browns.

For second we name the Athletics. For third, the Washington Nationals. And here comes the rub. Down at the bottom we place the Browns.

However, this is not intended to rub elbows with the players, but to be a taskmaster, and he has had his breakfast.

The "old" hasn't been clamped on crap shooting. He does not mind the men playing poker, but he has placed a 25-cent limit on the contests. A rule that is aimed at a number of "bushers" who come up annually and whose dress often offends the residents of first-class hotels, is the one which requires the wearing of white collars and boiled shirts in the lobbies and cafes of the hostilities.

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"NOT A WORD HEARD," SAYS HOLDOUT COBB

Detroit Star Stoutly Maintains He Has Had No Letters From Navin or Jennings.

AUGUSTA, Ga., March 8.—Ty Cobb's attention was called today to the published reports in a Detroit Sunday paper to the effect that he would soon join the Tigers at Grosse Pointe, Mich. Cobb had not seen the publication and expressed much surprise that such reports had been published.

According to the Detroit stories, Cobb, Dubuc, and Stange had agreed to go to Grosse Pointe as quickly as possible, leaving only Sam Crawford out of the fold. The stories stated also that President Navin had wired Manager Jennings to the effect that Cobb, Dubuc, and Stange would proceed to Grosse Pointe.

"I have not heard a word from Mr. Navin nor from Manager Jennings recently," said Cobb. "I feel that it is a matter between him and the club, and I have not intended to report anything until the first of April or later, and there is no word from him as yet."

Cobb has steadfastly maintained that he has confidence in Mr. Navin's intentions to do the right thing by him and his players, and if he says that he is worth the sum he has asked for, as regards the amount he is asking for, Ty has never made known even to his most intimate friends what he thinks of the offer.

He has said that he is a matter between him and the club president, and the public has nothing to do with it.

The Boston Red Sox should repeat this year. Now, Joe Wood may not go out and gather together a record of thirty-four victories and five defeats, but Joe should be good enough to shoulder a majority of the pitching burden.

Following Joe Wood, the Sox have Hugh Bedient and Buck O'Brien, dazzling young twirling artists. This trio should eclipse Mack's three moundmen, Plank, Bender, and Combs, because they are in the midst of their prime.

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MINOR LEAGUES READY TO OPEN

More Than Two Score of Bush Circuits Will Begin Operations Within the Coming Month—American Association Commences April 10.

NEW YORK, March 8.—Two score or more of minor baseball leagues, stretching from the eastern provinces of Canada to southern California and from British Columbia to Florida, have practically completed all preparations for the season about to begin. The bush league teams, as the minors are familiarly known, are important factors in the national game, since they furnish the stage for the debut of the future major league stars.

But it is hardly fair to apply the term of "bush" league to all of the organizations outside the two big leagues. Baseball as it is played in the Class AA and Class A leagues is fast and evenly balanced and of a quality that will bear comparison with the entertainment furnished in the big show.

The American Association will start its twelfth season, April 10. Several changes in the management have taken place since the close of last season. William Armour, the former Toledo manager, has become president of the Milwaukee club. The Indianapolis team, succeeded Hugh Duffy as manager of the same club. Mike Kelley leaves St. Paul to pilot the Indianapolis team. He is succeeded at St. Paul by William Friel, the former Columbus manager.

William Blinnman will have charge at Columbus. Toledo managers include Cantillon, of Minneapolis; Carr, of Kansas City; Hayden, of Louisville, and Hartel, of Toledo.

Opens April 16.

The season of the International League will open April 16 and close September 21, the schedule calling for 154 games. Harry Smith, former big league catcher, succeeds Joe McGinnity as manager at Newark and William C. Sullivan succeeds George Stallings at Buffalo. Joe Kelley will continue as manager at Toronto, John Gansel at Rochester, Jack Dunn at Baltimore, Bill Donovan at Providence, "Kitty" Bransfield at Montreal, and Larry Schatz at Jersey City.

The Pacific Coast League, with the longest schedule of any league in the country, will start its fourteenth season April 1 and close October 28. Harry Wolverton, who piloted the New York Americans last year, returns to the coast to manage the Sacramento team. The other managers of the league are: Howie, San Francisco; W. H. McCredie, Portland; "Hap" Hogan, Vernon; Frank Dillon, Los Angeles; and Harry Campbell, San Diego.

The big bell will ring for the opening of the thirteenth season of the Southern League on April 10 and the final games will be played on September 1. "Kid" Elberfeld is the new manager at Chattanooga, succeeded William Smith, who will pilot the Atlanta team. The hold-over managers are Moleworth of Birmingham, Frank of New Orleans, and President Navin had wired Manager Schwartz of Nashville and Bernard of Memphis.

Following the season of the Western League has scheduled 165 games, opening April 18 and closing October 5. The only new manager is Charles G. Mullin, former White Sox player, who will manage the Lincoln team. Frank Isbell continues at Colorado Springs, and Harry Campbell at Topeka and George Hughes at Wichita.

Begins April 30.

The New England League, the oldest of the minors, will open its twenty-third season April 30 and close September 1. Hugh Duffy, former big league pilot, will manage the team at Portland, Me., which city has taken over the Fall River franchise. Pat Flaherty, the old major league pitcher, is to lead the Lynn team and Frank Cavanaugh, successor of Harry Campbell, at Haverhill. The hold-over managers are Burkett of Worcester, Pieper of Lawrence, Gray of Lowell and Connaughton of New Bedford.

The twelfth season of the Northwestern League will open April 15 and close September 21. "Iron Man" Joe McGinnity, the former Giant pitcher, succeeds Mike Lynch as manager at Tacoma. Lynch will manage the Victoria team. The other managers are: Spokane, George Stange; Portland, T. Raymond; Seattle, Harry Campbell; and Everett, Harry Campbell.

The Eastern Association, formerly the Connecticut League, will begin its fifteenth season April 22 and close September 1. The association has been given a new lease on life by the purchase of Pittsfield, Mass., and New London, Conn. The clubs and managers are as follows: Bridgeport, E. M. Ryan; Waterbury, Harry Campbell; Holyoke, T. J. Whalen; Springfield, William H. Baker; Hartford, Simon C. Donald; and New Haven, Jerry O'Connell.

Tristate Makes Bo.

The tenth season of the Tri-State League will begin April 10 and end September 3. The managers selected include: Bill Coughlin, Allentown; Bert Conn, Trenton; Curt Weiland, Chester; John Castle, Atlantic City; Jake Wietzel, Reading; Harrisburg, York; George Cockhill, Harrisburg, and Jimmy Jackson, Wilmington.

The tentative schedule prepared for the thirteenth season of the Three-I League fixes April 24 for the opening, and September 1, as the closing date. The only manager left from last season are O'Leary, of Davenport, and Rowland, of Dubuque. The new pilots are Harry Campbell, of Burlington; Tommie Harris, of Quincy; Frank Donnelly, of Springfield; Harry McCormick, of Peoria; and Connie Mack, of St. Louis.

The New York State League will open its eighteenth season April 20, and close September 1. Dick Smith has succeeded Harry Campbell as manager, at Troy. Jimmy Tansett at Albany, and Mike O'Neil at Utica.

The eleventh season of the Central League, cut down from twelve to six clubs will open April 22, and close September 7. The clubs and managers are:

Fort Wayne, Jimmy Burke; Springfield, Joe Stanley; Dayton, John Nee; Evansville, "Punch" Knoll; Terre Haute, "Goat" Anderson, and Grand Rapids, Ed Smith.

Has Long Schedule.

The Virginia League will start its eighth season April 12, and close September 15. The only new manager is Fay Davis, at Newport News. The old man-

agers are Steve Griffin, of Richmond; W. L. Presley, of Roanoke; Henry Busch, of Petersburg; Charles Shaffer, of Norfolk, and Lou Castro, of Portsmouth.

The eleventh season of the Texas League will begin April 10 and end September 7. George Ledy, manager of the San Antonio team last year, will lead the Austin team. He is succeeded at San Antonio by George Stinson. The hold-over pilots are Caveney, of Dallas; Wheeler, of Beaumont; Morris, of Fort Worth; Maloney, of Galveston; Fillman, of Houston, and Carson, of Waco.

The Wisconsin-Illinois League will start its ninth pennant race on May 2. The Aurora team has been transferred to Milwaukee and will play in that city when the American Association team is on the road. The W-L hold-over pilots are Caveney, of Dallas; Wheeler, of Beaumont; Morris, of Fort Worth; Maloney, of Galveston; Fillman, of Houston, and Carson, of Waco.

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